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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

The BATTLE For
AUNT MAY'S
SOUL!



BAUS & MAHLESTEDT

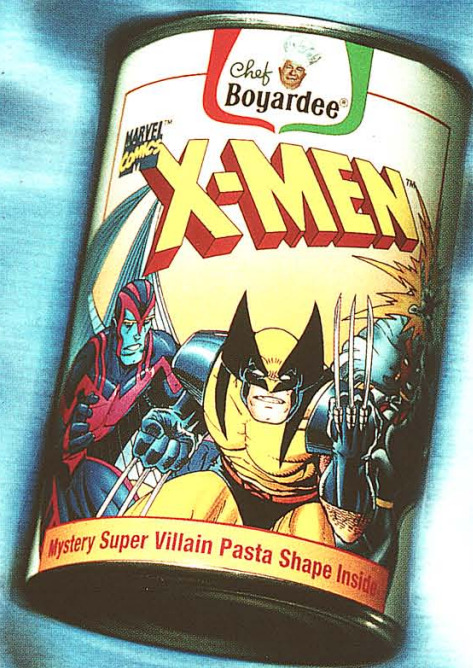


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And only you can set them free. Because now all your favorite characters come in new  X-Men pasta shapes from Chef Boyardee. It's cool  pasta shapes in an X-cellent tomato sauce with a mystery super villain hidden inside.



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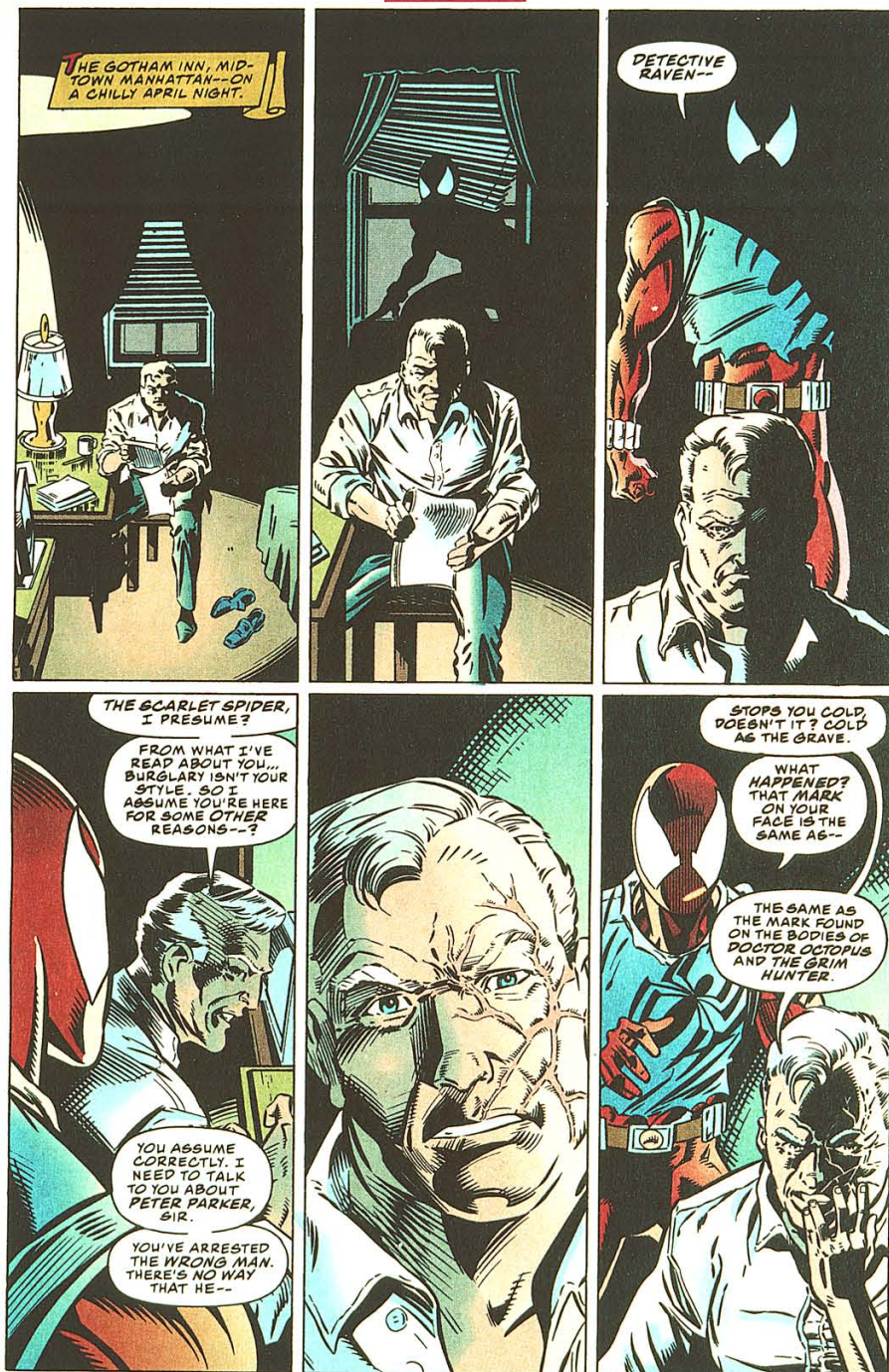
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X-Men Pasta. It's more than a meal. It's an adventure.

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THE SAME MARK
A SALT LAKE DETEC-
TIVE NAMED LOUISE
KENNEDY HAD ON HER
WHEN SHE WAS MUR-
DERED TWO YEARS
AGO.

THIS CASE HAS
CONSUMED ME
SINCE THAT NIGHT.
MAYBE TOO MUCH. I
KEEP DIGGING AND
DIGGING... LOOKING
FOR LOGIC AND CLEAR
ANSWERS--

--BUT ALL
I FIND
ARE MORE
MYSTERIES

AND THE BIGGEST
MYSTERY IS PARKER
--OR SHOULD I CALL
HIM BEN REILLY--
AND HIS CONNECTION
TO A MAN NAMED
KAINE.

STAN
LEE
PRESENTS:

CROSSFIRE

PART ONE

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLUME 1, No. 402, June, 1999. (ISSN #0274-3259) PUBLISHED BY MARVEL COMICS, INC., 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020. PUBLISHED BY: MARVEL COMICS, INC. GROUP PUBLISHER: PUBLISCHING OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 500 NEW YORK, NY 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, P.O. Box 998, Hightstown, NJ 08520. POSTAGE AND FEES PAID: \$1.00 per copy at the US and \$2.10 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: \$18.00 US. Canada, foreign, and postage outside the U.S. GST #R1230726262. Foreign \$30.00. No similarity between the characters of the Spider-Man and the institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or used subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN including all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of MARVEL COMICS, INC. © 1999 MARVEL COMICS, INC. ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL, DISTRIBUTION MARKETING, P.O. Box 998, Hightstown, NJ 08520. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL, DISTRIBUTION MARKETING, P.O. Box 998, Hightstown, NJ 08520. TELEPHONE # (201) 765-3331. Printed in the U.S.A.

--I WON'T
REST UNTIL
I'VE MADE
AMENDS.
UNTIL THE TRUE
MURDERER IS
BROUGHT TO--

--JUSTICE.

I
BELIEVE YOU
DETECTIVE
...AND I'M
GRATEFUL--

--BUT
I HOPE
YOU DON'T
MIND--

--IF I
HELP SPEED
THINGS
ALONG.

WHAT WOULD YOU
THINK, DETECTIVE,
IF YOU KNEW THAT
BENEATH THIS
MASK, I AM
PETER PARKER...

...AND THAT THE
MAN YOU KNOW
AS BEN REILLY
ISN'T MY ALIAS...
BUT MY CLONE?

A CLONE WHO'S SACRIFICED HIMSELF IN THE NAME OF MY HAPPINESS; WHO'S TAKEN MY PLACE IN JAIL SO THAT I CAN BE WITH MY PREGNANT WIFE?

YOU'D PROBABLY SAY IT WAS ALL TOO FAR-FETCHED, TOO RIDICULOUS TO BE TRUE.

BUT IT IS TRUE. AND YOU HAVE MY WORD BEFORE GOD THAT I'M GOING TO FIND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE MURDERS... FREE BEN REILLY... AND CLEAR THE PARKER NAME.

...AND THOSE
YET TO BE
BORN.

NOT JUST FOR MY
SAKE... OR BEN'S..
BUT FOR THE SAKE
OF THE PARKERS
THAT HAVE COME
BEFORE ME...

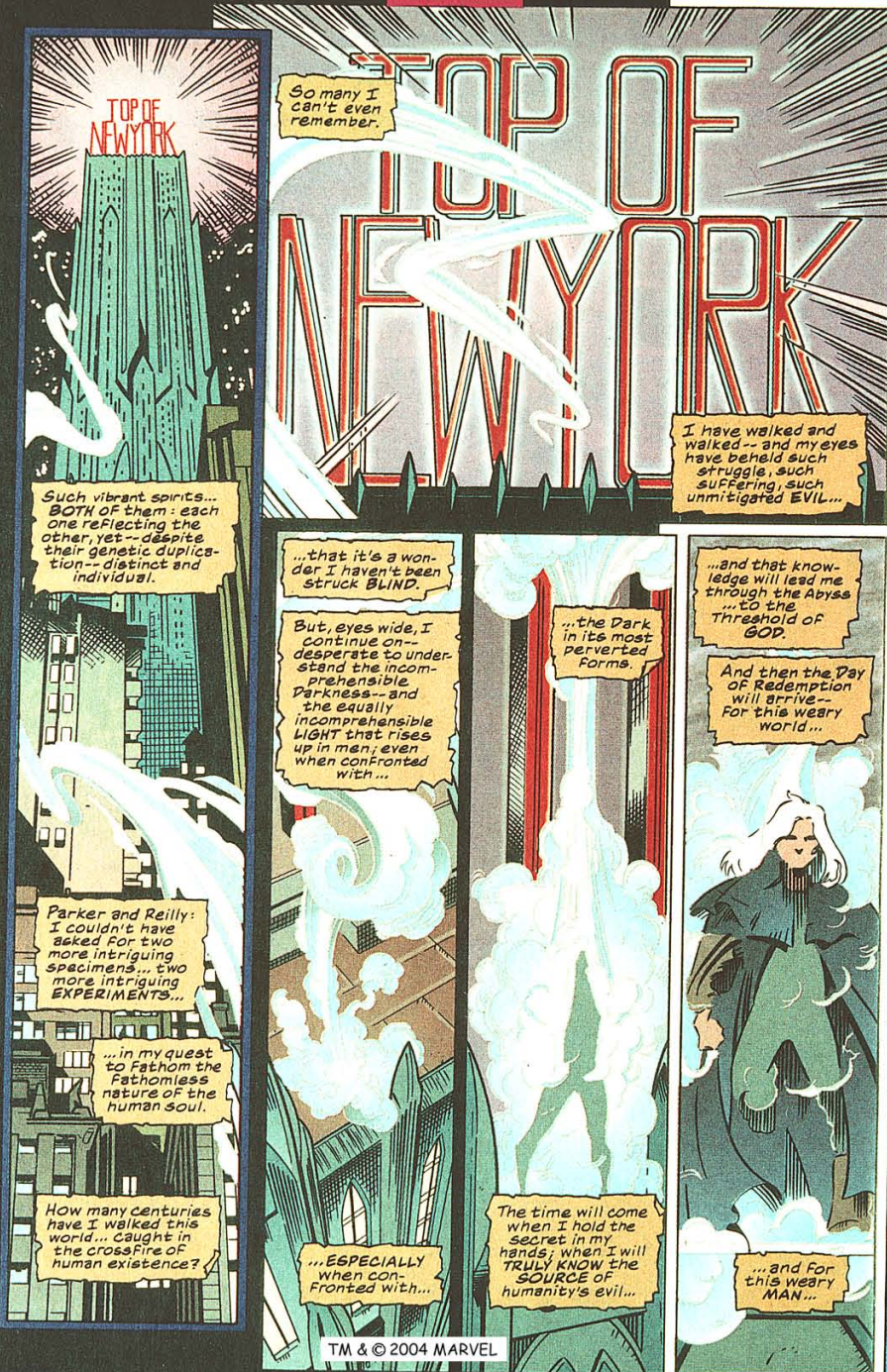
And so he swings
off, determined,
noble... and very
much afraid.

J.M. DeMATTEIS - writer
MARK BAGLEY - penciller
**MAHLSTEDT, RUBINSTEIN
& MILGROM** - inkers

BOB SHAREN - colorist
BILL OAKLEY - letterer
DANNY FINGEROTH - prosecutor
BOB BUDANSKY - evidence tampering

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RAGE

The Werewolf: The Apocalypse Collectible Trading Card Game

MAY 5th

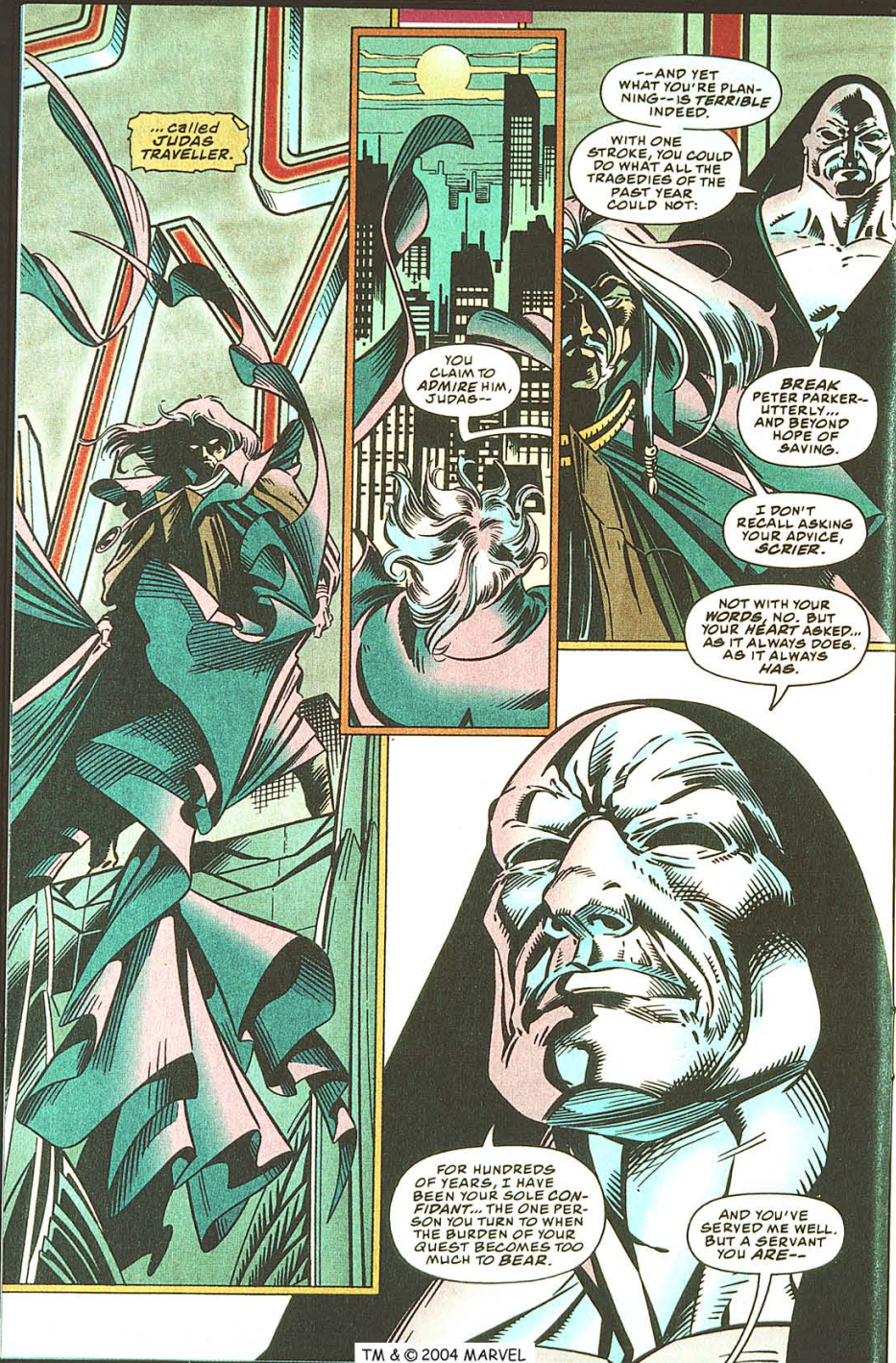
The world is dying, smothered in the coils of the Wyrm. Only the Garou werewolves can stop it. But who will lead them? The war is on, werewolf vs. werewolf, pack vs. pack. Wielding razor-sharp claws and mystic weapons, calling aid from ancient spirits, the Garou vie for leadership.

The limited-edition set of RAGE features over 300 cards, all with security holograms. Collect silver foil Past Lives chase cards, only available in RAGE booster packs. Build your own custom decks, and experience the frenzy of RAGE!

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White Wolf Game Studio

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1995 Fleer Ultra™ Baseball. More Collectible Than Ever!

TWO "SPECIAL-PRINT" CARDS IN EVERY PACK.

INTRODUCING
THE FIRST PARALLEL SET
TO INCLUDE ALL
THE INSERT CARDS.

It's the "Gold Medallion Edition"—truly a "set within a set." That's because it includes every basic and insert card in '95 Fleer Ultra Baseball...but its production is limited to less than 10% of the total run. Plus, we're seeding Gold Medallion Edition cards one per pack.

7 INSERT SETS.
1 INSERT CARD PER PACK.
PLUS "ULTRA HOT PACKS!"

We're talking amazing players... on incredible cards! And they're seeded one card per pack. Plus, watch out for Fleer "Ultra Hot Packs"—very scarce packs filled with all different insert cards!

THE ULTRA QUALITY
YOU DEMAND.

All 250 dramatically designed basic cards feature three different foil-stamped colors; two on each side.



Basic card front.



Basic card back.

1 of 10 "Golden Prospect" insert cards. Hobby packs only. Odds 1:8 packs.



"ULTRA HOT PACKS!"

Seeded 1:72 packs, they contain all different insert cards.



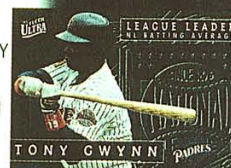
1 of 10 "RBI King" insert cards. Pre-priced packs only. Odds 1:11 packs.



1 of 15 "Second-Year Standout" insert cards. Odds not greater than 1:6 packs.



1 of 10 "Home Run King" insert cards. Retail packs only. Odds 1:8 packs.



1 of 10 "League Leader" insert cards. Odds 1:3 packs.

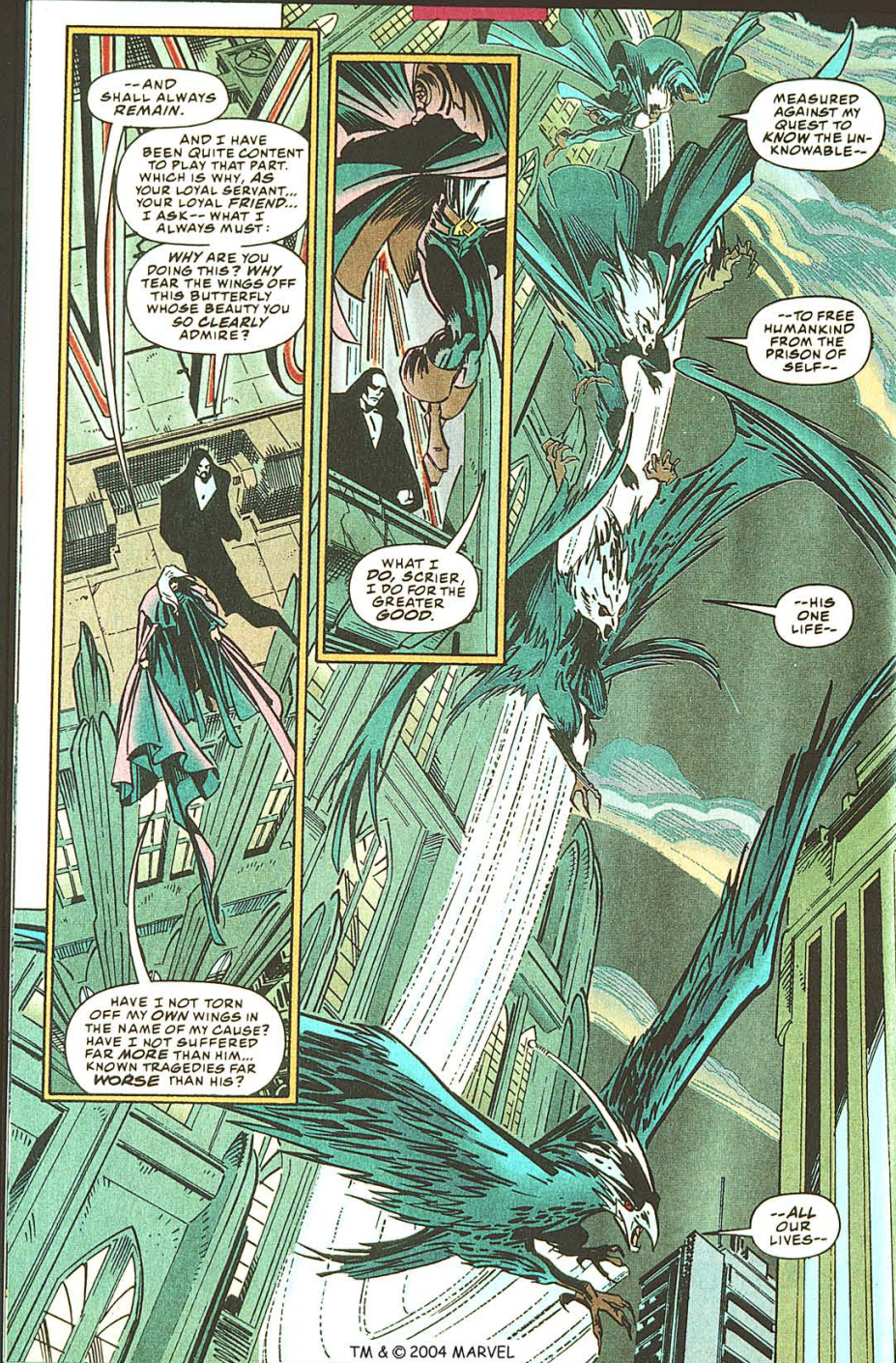
1 of 6 "Power Plus" insert cards. Very scarce, 100% etched foil. Odds 1:37 packs.



Better Than Ever!

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'94-95 FLEER ULTRA BASKETBALL II

ROOKIES ON THE RISE. VETERANS ON THE MOVE.

150 All-New Basic Cards—Including 40 Top '94-95 Rookies, Plus Traded Vets And Free Agents!



Series II basic card front: stamped with both gold and silver foil.



Series II basic card back: more gold foil, plus a unique three-photo look.

One of 10 "Inside/Outside" cards. Hobby packs only. Odds 1:7 packs.



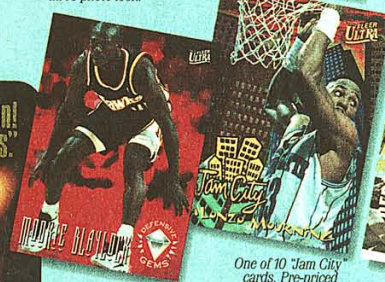
One of 10 "Power In The Key" cards. Retail packs only. Odds 1:7 packs.



One of 15 "Ultra All-Rookie" cards. Odds 1:5 packs.



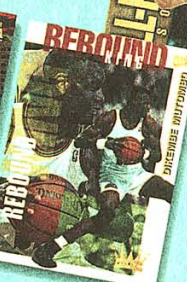
The excitement keeps on building! That's because every time you buy '94-95 Fleer Ultra NBA Basketball II, you could be getting a "Hot Pack" filled with all different insert cards.



One of 6 "Defensive Gem" cards. 100% etched foil. "Scarce." Odds 1:37 packs.



One of 10 "Jam City" cards. Pre-priced packs only. Odds 1:7 packs.



One of 10 "Rebound King" cards. Odds 1:2 packs.

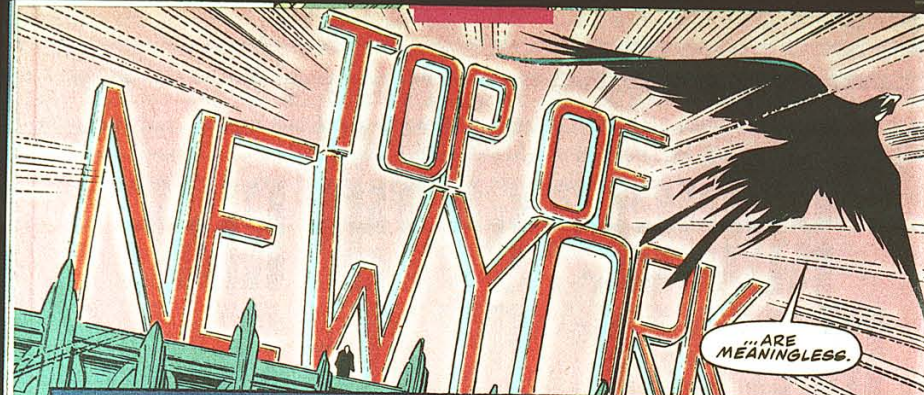
Today's hottest first-year players. Traded vets and free agents in their new team uniforms. Acknowledged stars not included in Series I. They're all yours—on 150 spectacular gold-and-silver-foil-stamped, UV-coated premium quality cards. Plus, Series II also includes 6 new insert sets—61 mind-roasting limited edition cards in all, seeded one card per pack. '94-95 Fleer Ultra NBA Basketball II. It's better than ever.



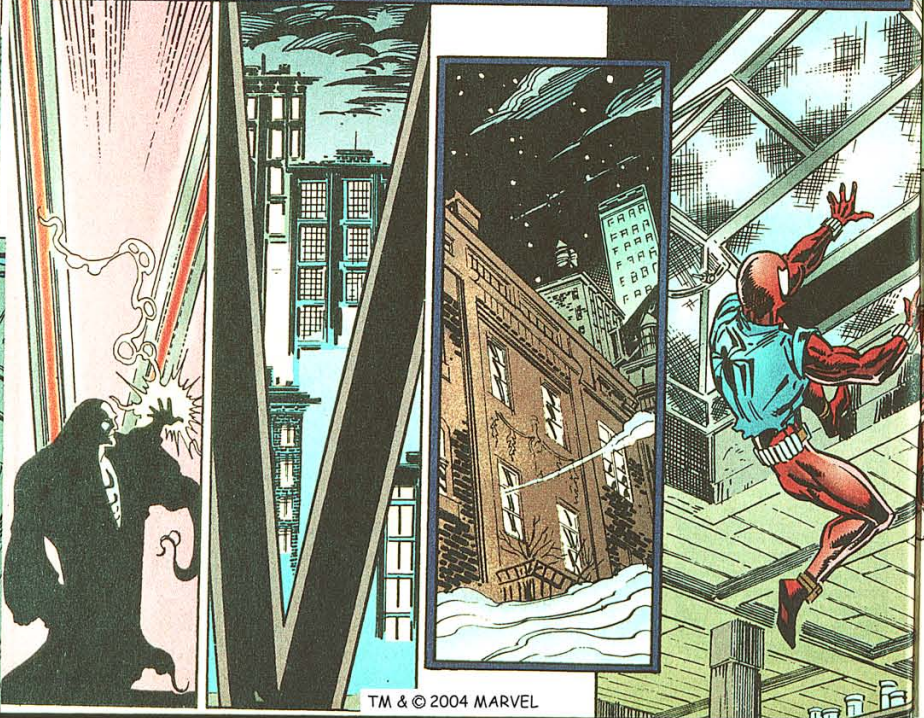
Better Than Ever.

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...ARE MEANINGLESS.



PETER--?



WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I WAS WORRIED SICK. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT--

I'M SORRY, MARY JANE. YOU WERE RESTING AND I DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU, SO I--



SO YOU JUST TOOK OFF WITHOUT LEAVING ME A NOTE?

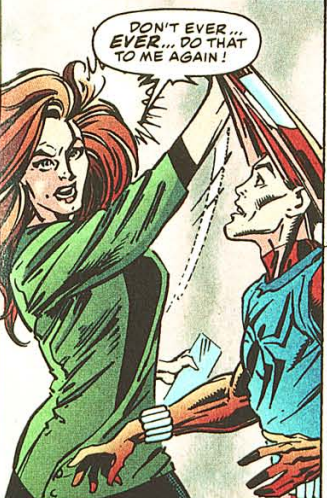
I... JUST WENT OUT TO TALK TO THAT DETECTIVE, JACOB RAYEN. FIGURED I'D BE BACK BEFORE YOU EVER--

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE, PETER--

--I THOUGHT YOU'D EITHER LEFT ME AGAIN... OR SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU AND--

BUT I'VE JUST GOT TO FIND HARD EVIDENCE TO GET BEN OUT OF PRISON. DO YOU REALIZE WHAT A SACRIFICE HE'S MADE FOR ME?

FOR US?



DON'T EVER... EVER... DO THAT TO ME AGAIN!



AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH... JUST THE THOUGHT OF BEING APART FROM YOU... ESPECIALLY NOW... WITH OUR BABY ON THE WAY--!

YOU'RE RIGHT, SWEETIE. I SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST TOLD YOU.



MARVEL COMICS

ARACHNID ANNIVERSARIES

This month marks two milestones for the Spider-Man line: first, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN celebrates its 125th issue with a 48-page masterwork that not only features the debut of the all-new, totally revamped Green Goblin, but also brings back one of the most important figures in Spider-Man's history: the original Gwen Stacy clone! What will Spider-Man and the Jackal do now that their beloved Gwen is back in their midst? **Terry Kavanagh**, **Steven Butler** and **Randy Emberlin** provide the answers!

Meanwhile, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN marks its 225th issue with a 48-page magnum opus that unravels the mysteries surrounding the new Green Goblin! Is he friend or foe? Only **Tom DeFalco**, **Sal Buscema** and **Bill Sienkiewicz** know for sure!

But that's not all that makes these books so special! Read on...

HOLODISK HAPPENINGS!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #225 and WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #125 also feature incredible 3D holodisk covers that will positively knock you out! One holodisk features a three-dimensional, live-action, moving figure of Spider-Man, the other has Ben Reilly turning into the Scarlet Spider — right before your very eyes! You'll need a penlight to see the figures in the holodisks, but that's no problem — ask your local comic book retailer about the Spider-Man penlights that we've made available especially for these disks!



SPIDEY IS TOPS ON THE TUBE!

As of this writing (early March), the brand-spanking-new Spider-Man animated television series is the #1 kids show on Saturday mornings! And just to show that Marvelmania is running wild, the #2 show is none other than our favorite band of mutants, the X-Men! Yep, we're taking over television!

And just to remind all of you Spider-Maniacs out there, each episode of the Spidey animated series is adapted every month in the pages of SPIDER-MAN ADVENTURES, by the team of **Nel Yomtov** and **Alex Saviuk**! Watch the show! Read the comic! You'll be glad you did!

SYMBIOTES STRIKE IN SUPER SPECIALS!

The secrets behind Venom's symbiote costume are finally revealed in "Planet of the Symbiotes!" This long-awaited saga is featured in all five of the Spider-Man family's 1995 Super Specials! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL #1 kicks off the story, which finds Eddie Brock and his symbiote at a major turning point in their relationship — one that will drag Spider-Man, the Scarlet Spider, Carnage and the whole world itself into the fray! Written by Venom co-creator **David Michelinie**, this is the epic you've been wanting to read for over ten years!

Included in the Super Specials is a flip feature, starring the Scarlet Spider in his very own live-part story-line! Follow Ben Reilly as he finds himself facing down one of Spider-Man's oldest, most dangerous foes! Who is it? We're not telling, but you can find out by reading the story by **Terry Kavanagh**! Each chapter of both the Spider-Man and Scarlet Spider features will be illustrated by some of Marvel's top talents!

ON SALE THIS MONTH:

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #125 (Kavanagh/Butler/Emberlin) Featuring a 3D Holodisk cover! The original Gwen Stacy clone returns! And the terrible truth about Peter and Mary Jane's baby!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #402 (DeMatteis/Bagley/Mahlestedt) As the Scarlet Spider stew in prison, Judas Traveller makes Spider-Man an offer he can't possibly refuse: the safety of Aunt May's soul!

SPIDER-MAN #59 (Mackie/Lyle/Hanna) Traveller is going to eliminate all of Spider-Man's problems — whether Spider-Man wants him or not! Plus: more on Mary Jane's troubled pregnancy!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #225 (DeFalco/S. Buscema/Sienkiewicz) Featuring a 3D Holodisk cover! The debut of the all-new Green Goblin! Who's he? And what is his mysterious legend?

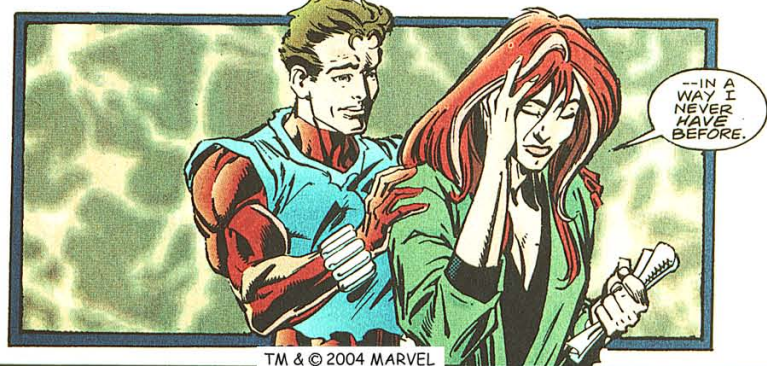
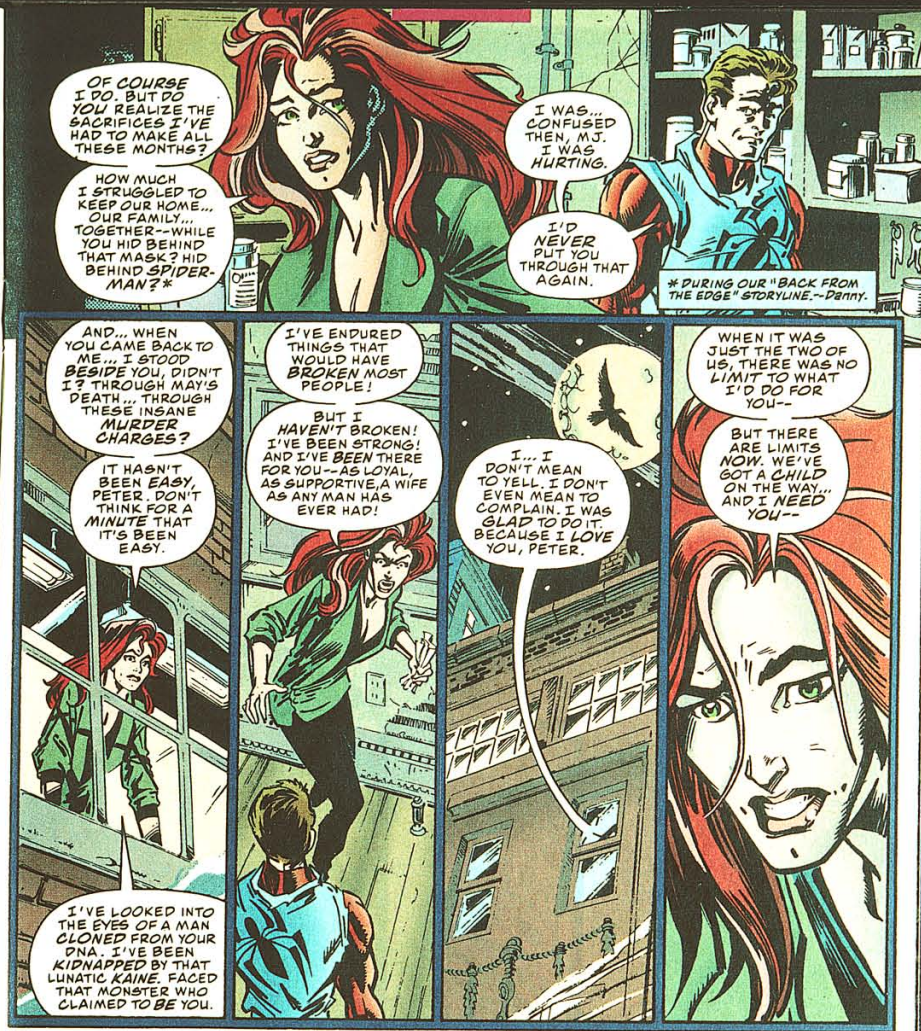
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL #1 (Michelinie & Heaver/Kavanagh & Gosler/Foin & Padi) Part one of "Planet of the Symbiotes," featuring a startling turning point for Venom and his symbiote! Plus: the first chapter of a Scarlet Spider solo saga, and a 10-page Steel Spider story! Oh — and Spider-Man will be there, too!

NOVA #18 (Skolnick/Gosler/Machlan & Co.) Final issue! Rich Rider must deal with the loss of his powers and the alien who has replaced him as Nova! Continued in NEW WARRIORS #60!

NEW WARRIORS #60 (Skolnick/Zircher/Papey) Giant-sized fifth anniversary issue! Two new members join the team! A new costume for Justice! The new Nova! And a vision of the future that spells doom for the teen team supreme!

SPIDER-MAN ADVENTURES #7 (Yomtov/Saviuk) Based on the animated series! Doctor Octopus kidnaps heiress Felicia Hardy! Can Spidey save her from the super-villain who was once his teacher?

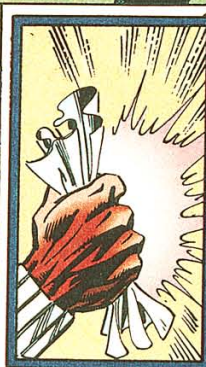
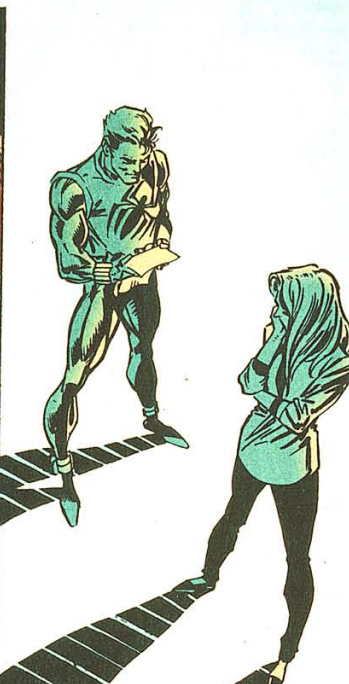
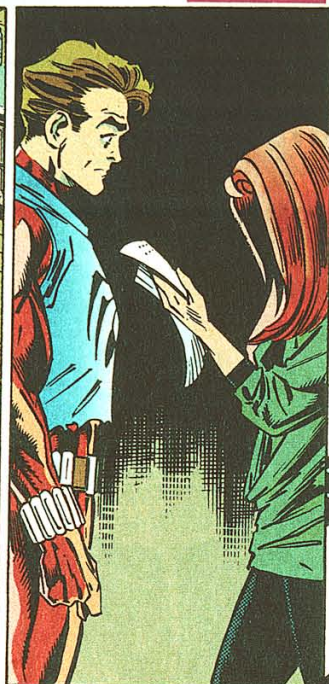
VENOM: CARNAGE UNLEASHED #3 (Hama/Wildman/Rubinstein) Venom vs. Carnage, with no Spider-Man in sight! A savage showdown between two of Spidey's most psychotic enemies! No matter who wins, the world won't be safe!





THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, ISN'T THERE?

TELL ME, MARY JANE. PLEASE.



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I DON'T WANT YOU TO WORRY ABOUT THIS. IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT? NOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

DIDN'T YOU READ WHAT THE REPORT SAID? OUR BABY COULD BE DEFORMED... OR WORSE!

--THIS BABY IS A PRODUCT OF OUR LOVE. IT'S PART OF US.

AND YOU'RE RIGHT, PETER--



--NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

WE'LL LOVE THIS CHILD, AND--

MY BUSINESS IS WITH YOU ... AND YOU ALONE.

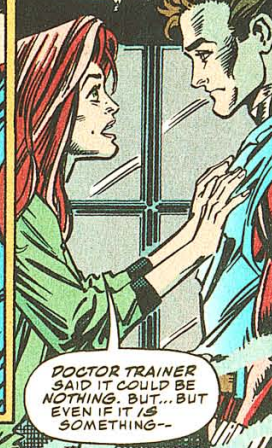


AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU! YOU AND YOUR HORRIBLE IRRESPONSIBLE BLOOD--

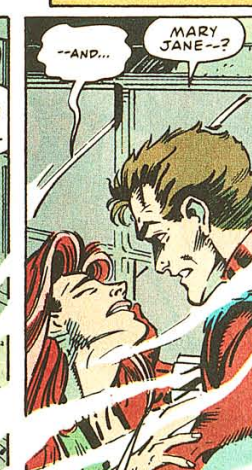


OH, GOD. OH, GOD... I'M SO SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN THAT. I SWEAR I DIDN'T.

IT'S JUST THAT I'M SO SCARED.



DOCTOR TRAINER SAID IT COULD BE NOTHING. BUT... BUT EVEN IF IT IS SOMETHING--



MARY JANE--?

--AND...



LET HER SLEEP, MY FRIEND. LET HER REST. I HAVE NO WISH TO UPSET HER... OR DO HER HARM.

THAT VOICE--!



MARY JANE--!



TRAVELLER?!

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DOESN'T THIS
INSANITY EVER END?
WOULDN'T YOU MANIACS
EVER LEAVE ME
ALONE?

WELL, IF IT'S
A FIGHT YOU WANT,
I--

I HAVEN'T
BROUGHT YOU HERE
TO DO BATTLE WITH
YOU, SPIDER-MAN. I
HAVE BROUGHT YOU
HERE--TO STUDY
YOU.

SINCE THAT DAY AT
RAVENCROFT, WHEN I
LOOKED INTO THE MINDS
OF THOSE TWISTED,
CORRUPTED SOULS*...
AND SAW YOU AS THE
COMMON LINK THAT FED
THEIR HATE... INSPIRED
THEIR LUNACY--

--I HAVE
WONDERED: DO
YOU FUNCTION AS
THE LIGHT, THE
BALANCE TO
THEIR DARKNESS?
OR ARE YOU SOME-
HOW... THE
CATALYST?

WOULD THESE
MEN NOT HAVE
FOUND EXPRESSION
FOR THEIR MADNESS
IF THEY HADN'T HAD
A SPIDER-MAN TO
FOCUS ON...
REACT TO?

*IN OUR ALREADY-CLASSIC
"POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY"
CROSSOVER. --DANNY.

Use Your Spider-Sense: Subscribe and Save!

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Is your Spider-Sense
tingling yet?

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- ☐ PPK Spectacular Spider-Man
- ☐ SPI Spider-Man
- ☐ S99 Spider-Man 2099
- ☐ SMA Spider-Man Adventures
- ☐ WEB Web of Spider-Man

MORE FROM MARVEL

- ☐ AVE Avengers
- ☐ BUT Beavis & Butt-Head
- ☐ CAM Captain America
- ☐ CAD Conan The Adventurer
- ☐ DDV Daredevil
- ☐ D99 Doom 2099
- ☐ DOC Dr. Strange
- ☐ FAN Fantastic Four
- ☐ FWK Force Works
- ☐ GAR Gargoyles
- ☐ GHR Ghost Rider
- ☐ G99 Ghost Rider 2099
- ☐ INC Incredible Hulk
- ☐ IRM Iron Man
- ☐ NWR New Warriors
- ☐ PUN Punisher
- ☐ P99 Punisher 2099
- ☐ PWJ Punisher War Journal
- ☐ ZON Punisher War Zone
- ☐ REN Ren & Stimpy
- ☐ SIL Silver Surfer
- ☐ THR Thor
- ☐ WMC War Machine

STANDOUT X-MEN TITLES

- ☐ CAB Cable
- ☐ EXC Excalibur
- ☐ GEN Generation X
- ☐ SCL Sabretooth Classics
- ☐ XME Uncanny X-Men
- ☐ WOL Wolverine
- ☐ FAC X-Factor
- ☐ XFO X-Force
- ☐ MEN X-Men
- ☐ X99 X-Men 2099
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- ☐ XCL X-Men Classics
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SPIDER-MAN



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MARVEL COMICS

SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED

ALL THESE
QUESTIONS--AND
MORE--I INTEND TO
EXPLORE AS I
JOURNEY ACROSS THE
LANDSCAPE OF YOUR
HEART AND SOUL.

I WANT TO KNOW YOU
SPIDER-MAN... DOWN TO
THE CELLULAR LEVEL.
I WANT TO UNDERSTAND
YOU IN A WAY EVEN
YOU CAN'T.

DISSECT
YOUR PSYCHE.
YOUR VERY--

DISSECT
THIS!

FALL.

PARALYZED

UNABLE TO
LIFT EVEN A
FINGER IN YOUR
OWN DEFENSE.

TRAVELLER...
WHY ARE YOU
DOING THIS?
PEOPLE AREN'T
LAB-RATS FOR
YOU TO EXPERIMENT
ON!

DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND THE PAIN YOU CAUSE WHEN YOU--

DO I HAVE
CONSCIENCE?
FEELING?

JUST THE
SMALLEST
TASTE OF
IT--

DON'T
YOU HAVE ANY
CONSCIENCE?
ANY
FEELING?

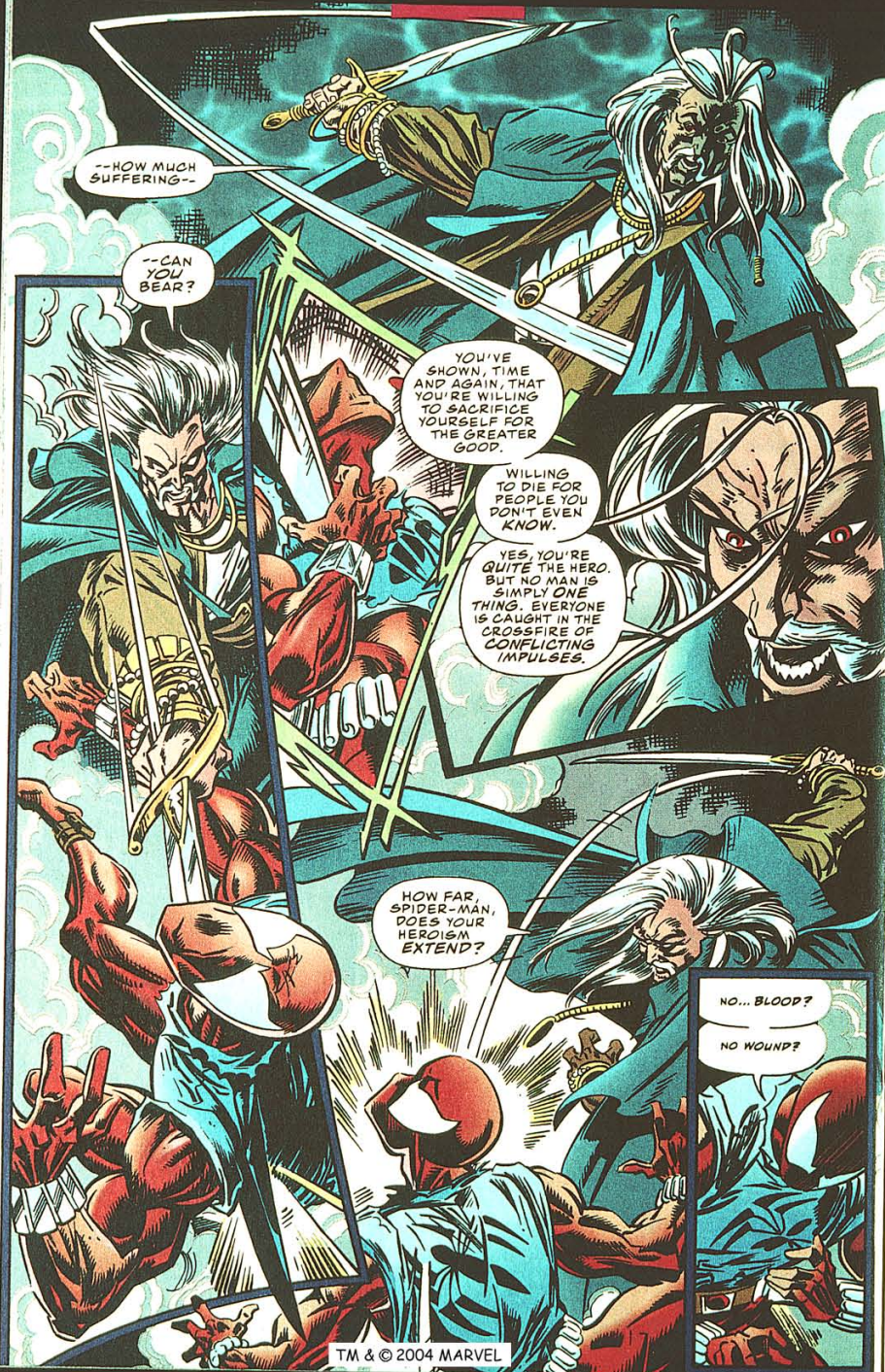
DO I
UNDERSTAND
PAIN?

THE SUFFERING
I'VE KNOWN IN MY YEARS
ON THIS EARTH DWARFS
ANYTHING IN YOUR PITIFUL
EXPERIENCE.

--IS
MORE THAN
ANY MAN
COULD EVER
BEAR.

BUT THE
QUESTION
REMAINS—

PERIENCE.



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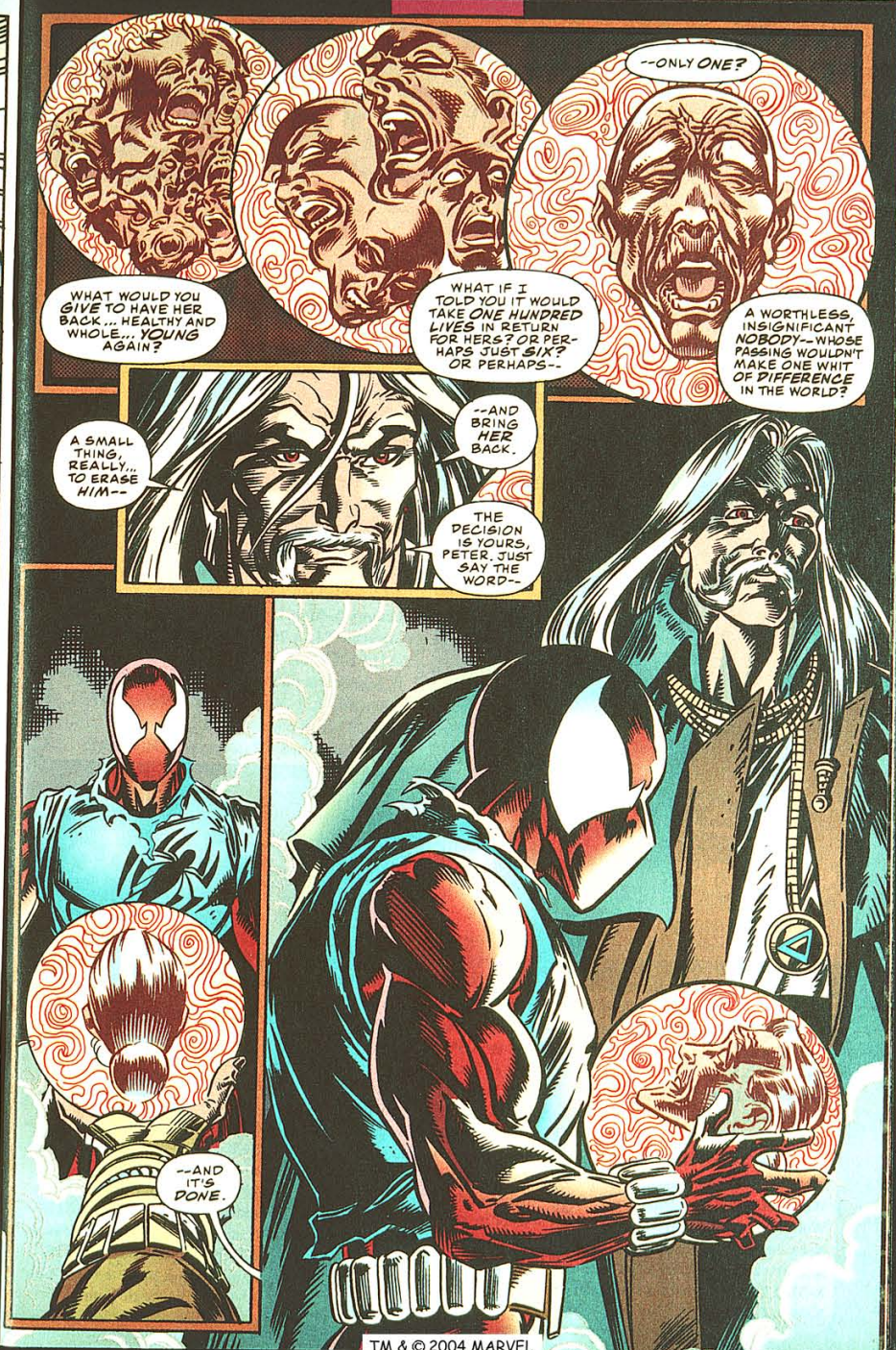
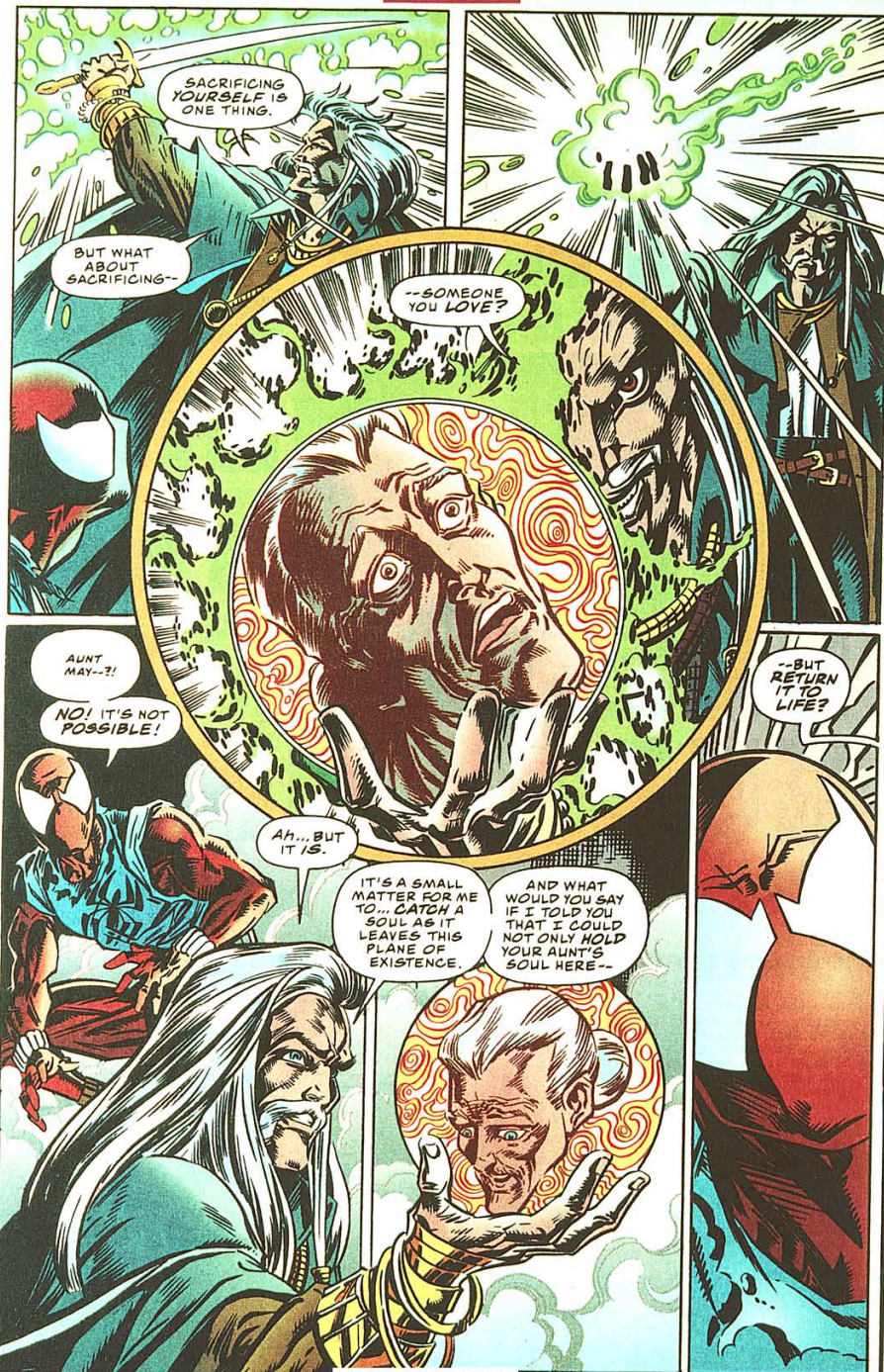
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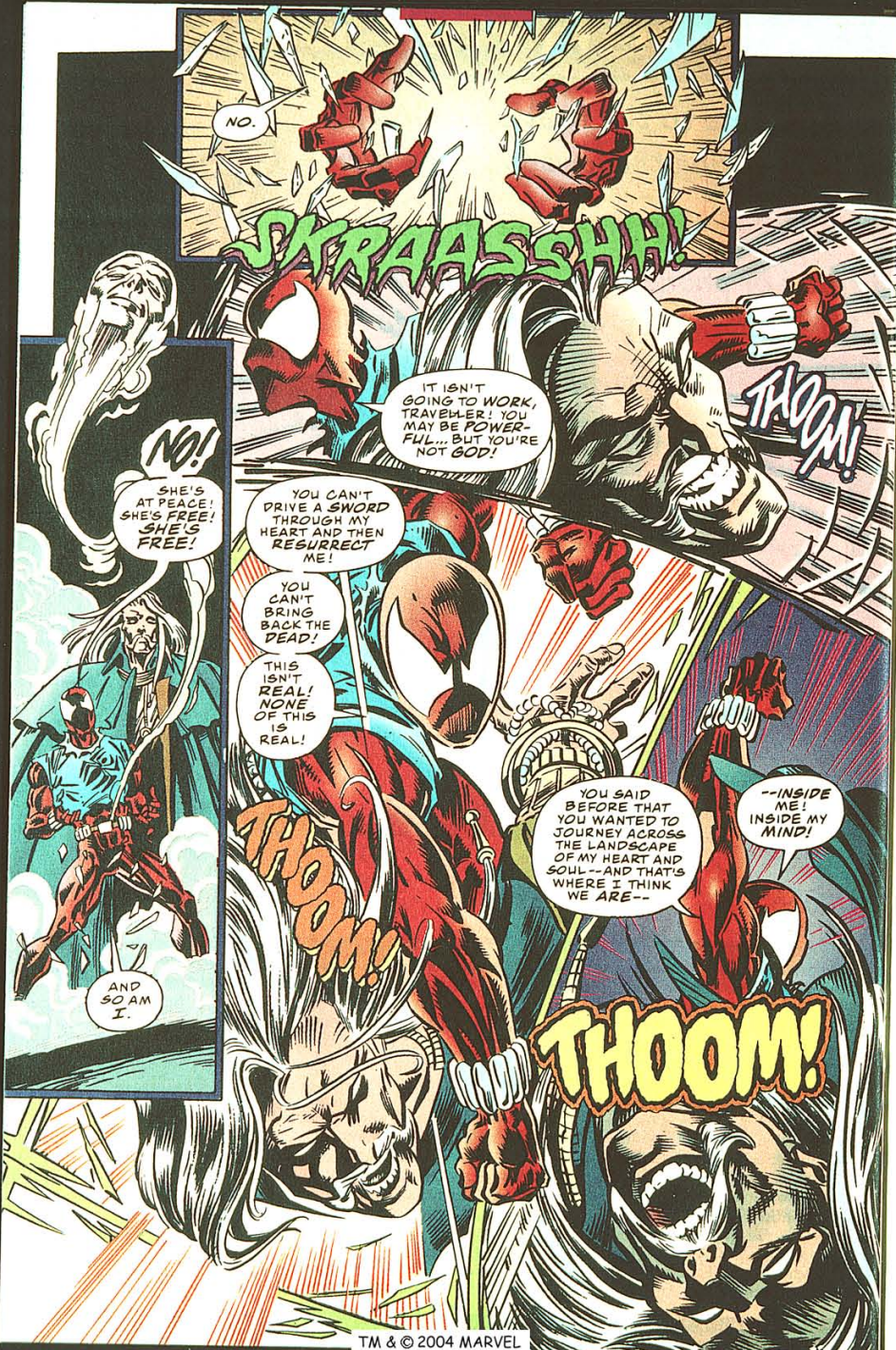
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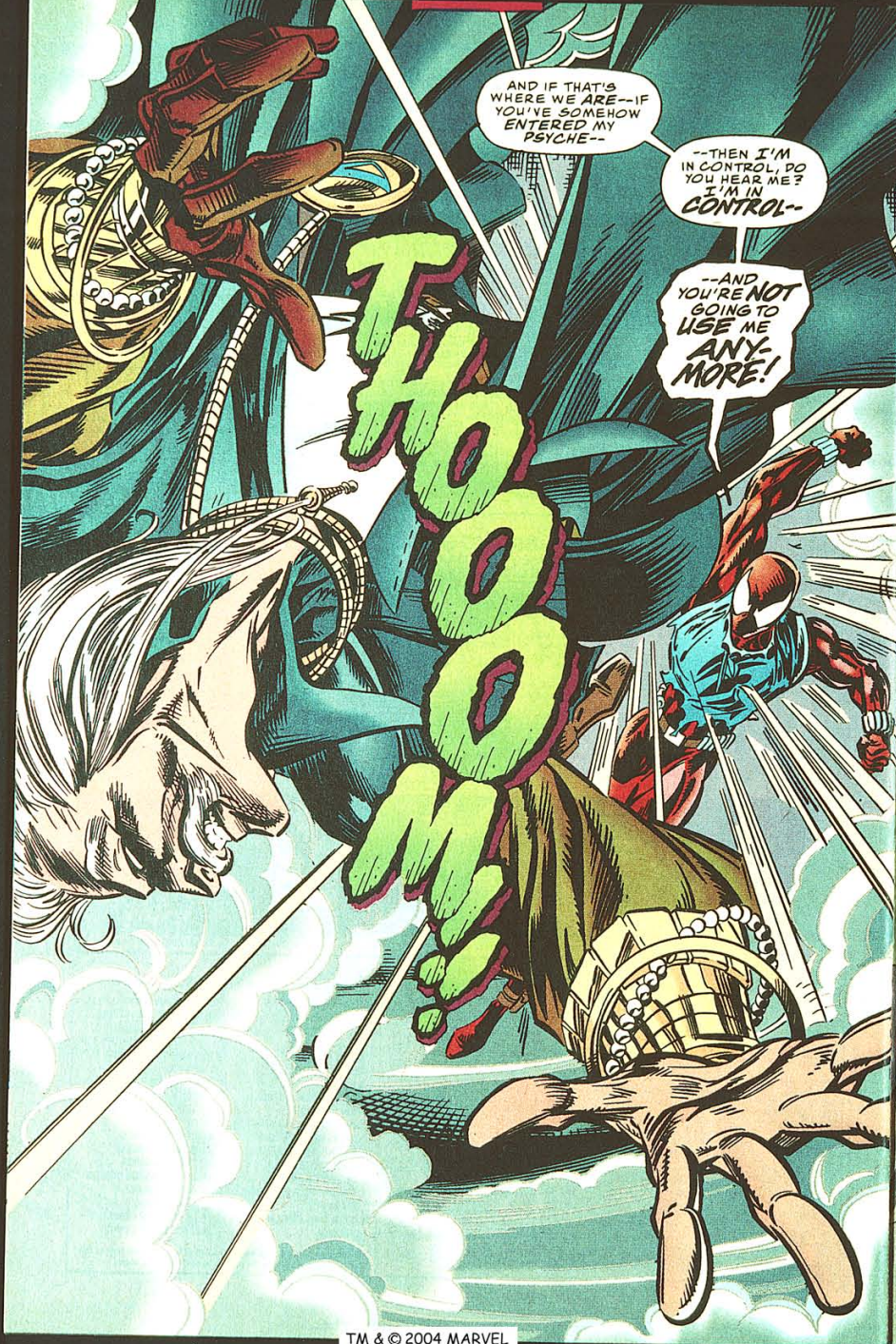
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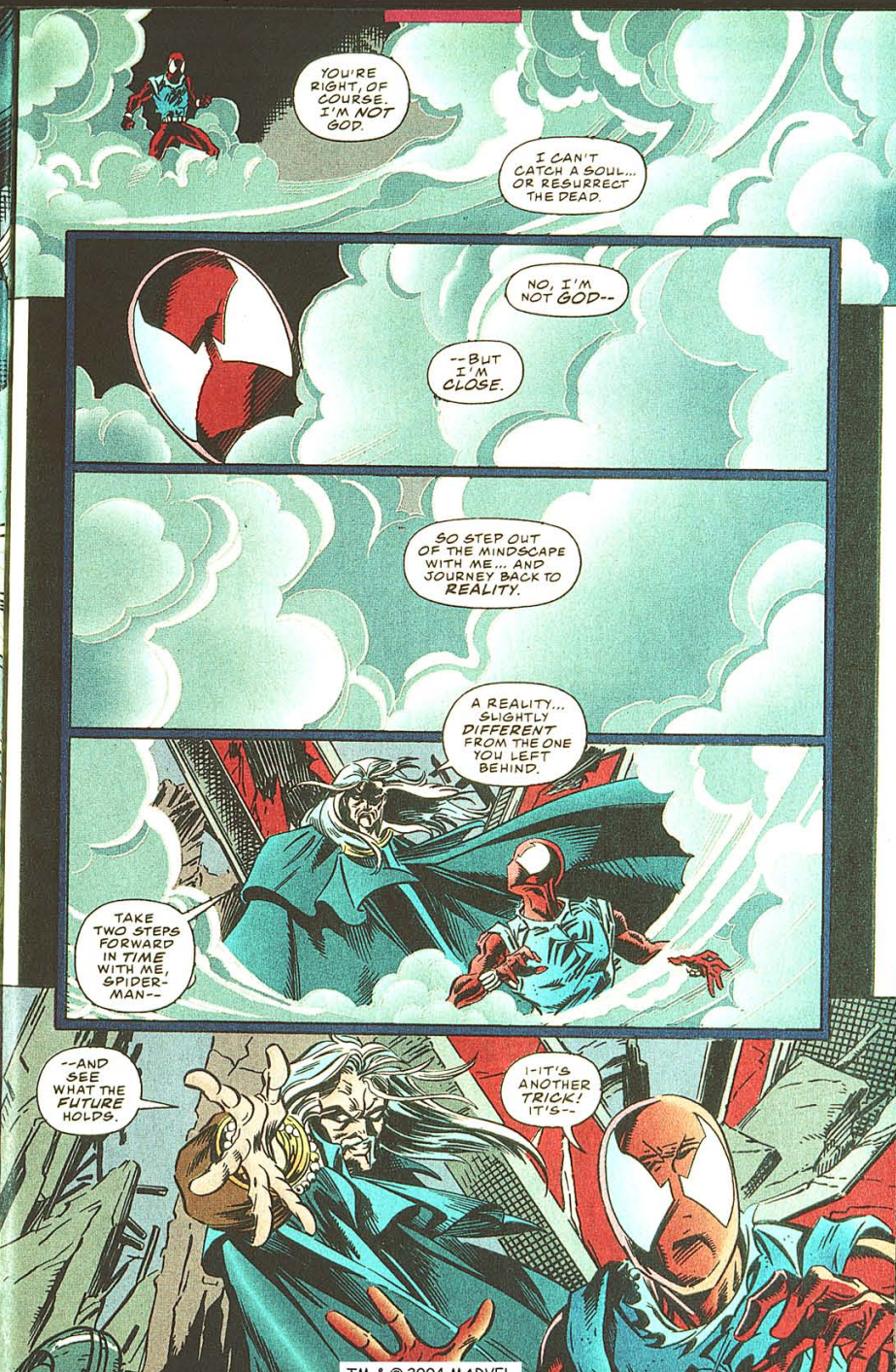


AND IF THAT'S
WHERE WE ARE--IF
YOU'VE SOMEHOW
ENTERED MY
PSYCHE--

--THEN I'M
IN CONTROL, DO
YOU HEAR ME?
I'M IN
CONTROL--

--AND
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO
USE ME
ANY-
MORE!

THOOM



YOU'RE
RIGHT, OF
COURSE.
I'M NOT
GOD.

I CAN'T
CATCH A SOUL...
OR RESURRECT
THE DEAD.

NO, I'M
NOT GOD--

--BUT
I'M
CLOSE.

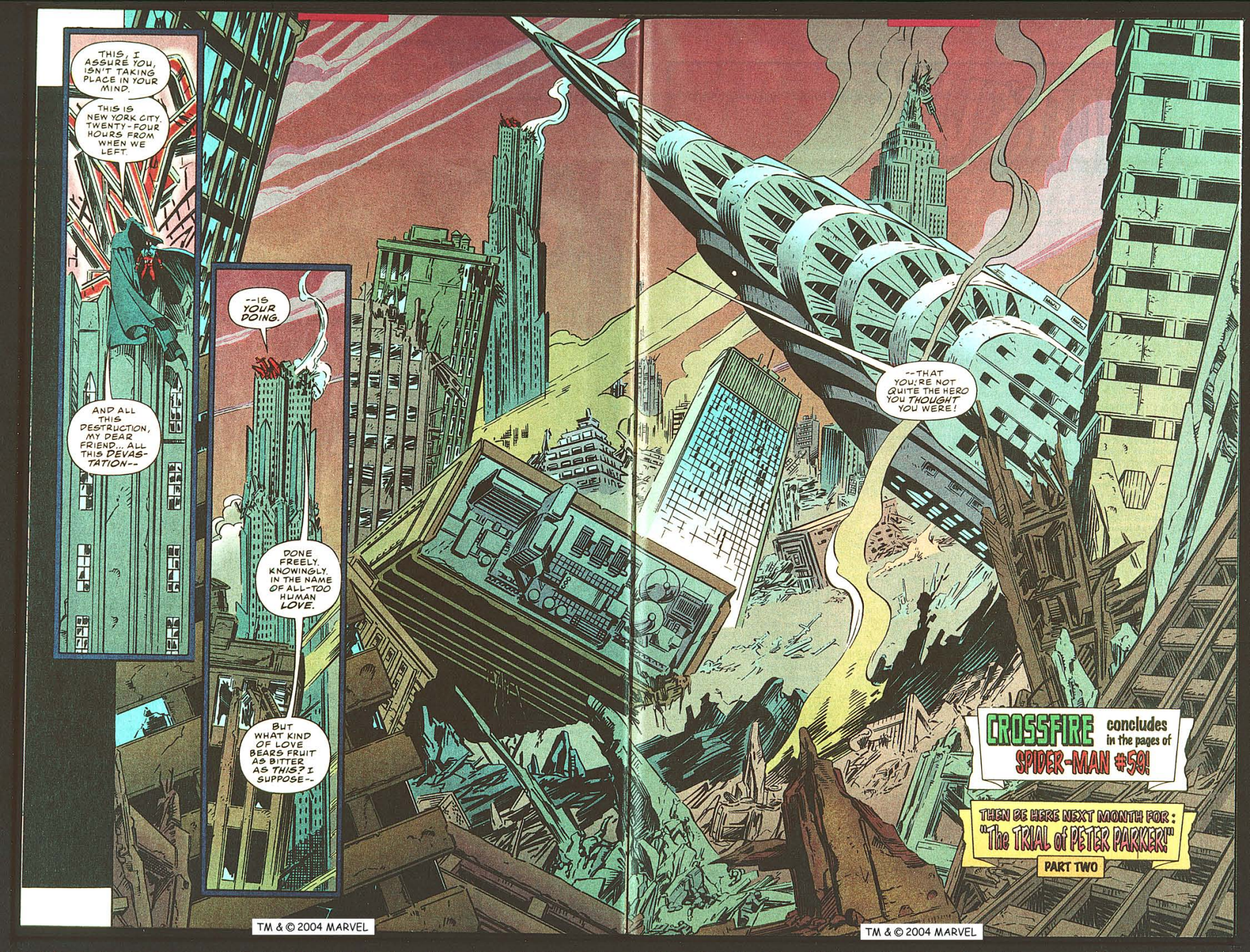
SO STEP OUT
OF THE MINDSCAPE
WITH ME... AND
JOURNEY BACK TO
REALITY.

A REALITY...
SLIGHTLY
DIFFERENT
FROM THE ONE
YOU LEFT
BEHIND.

TAKE
TWO STEPS
FORWARD
IN TIME
WITH ME,
SPIDER-
MAN--

--AND
SEE
WHAT THE
FUTURE
HOLDS.

IT'S
ANOTHER
TRICK!
IT'S--



THIS, I
ASSURE YOU,
ISN'T TAKING
PLACE IN YOUR
MIND.

THIS IS
NEW YORK CITY.
TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS FROM
WHEN WE
LEFT.

AND ALL
THIS
DESTRUCTION,
MY DEAR
FRIEND... ALL
THIS DEVAS-
TATION--

--IS
YOUR
DOING.

DONE
FREELY,
KNOWINGLY.
IN THE NAME
OF ALL-TOO
HUMAN
LOVE.

BUT
WHAT KIND
OF LOVE
BEARS FRUIT
AS BITTER
AS THIS? I
SUPPOSE--

--THAT
YOU'RE NOT
QUITE THE HERO
YOU THOUGHT
YOU WERE!

CROSSFIRE concludes
in the pages of
SPIDER-MAN #50!

THEN BE HERE NEXT MONTH FOR:
"The TRIAL of PETER PARKER!"

PART TWO

THE SPIDERS WEB

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Dear Spider-Guys,

I just finished reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #396, and I have to say it was great! Mark Bagley's rendition of the new Daredevil and the Owl are both really cool. I liked how Daredevil helped Spidey in deciding what to do with his civilian identity.

I also love the idea of teaming up the Vulture and the Owl, but I'm a bit confused as to how and when the Vulture escaped prison. I've been reading all the Spider-titles and I can't find the issue where he escaped. Can you guys help me out? Plus, you keep identifying the clone as Ben Reilly. Where did he get this name, and what issue was it in?

Jeff Graham
28200 Ridgeway Court
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Thanks for writing in, Jeff. The details of Vulture's escape are still unknown, but as ASM #396 implies, the Owl sought him out when he came to New York, so it's very likely that the Owl somehow managed to bust Vulture out of prison himself. Don't worry, you didn't miss an issue!

As for the "Ben Reilly" moniker, it comes from Uncle Ben, and Aunt May's maiden name, as explained in SPIDER-MAN #51. Looks like you *did* miss that one! And Ben gave himself the name in the story of his early days on the road that just appeared in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #223. Better pick 'em both up at the comics shop before they go out of your price range!

Dear Spider-peeps,

ASM #396 was terrific! J.M. DeMatteis is filling David Michelinie's shoes more than admirably! Mark Bagley's artwork, as always, was magnificent! Larry Mahlstedt is also doing excellent stuff as the new inker. Daredevil's appearance in these pages was long overdue. He's a great character, and I've been waiting to see him team up with Spider again for a while.

Now for some questions:

1) Will Spider-Man and Mary Jane ever be getting back together?

2) How did the Vulture recover from the trance he was in back at the end of issue #388?

3) Will we be seeing Dr. R.

Octopus anytime soon?

Finally, I think I know what happened on the last page. The bird's claws were soaked with the chemical virus that the Vulture used on page 22. Does this mean that Spider-Man will get amnesia?

Mike A. Siuta
487 Homestead Place
Union, NJ 07083

No amnesia from the virus, Mike (it was something a lot more deadly than that!), but we're glad our DD appearance whetted your appetite. On to your questions:

1) Pete and MJ have reconciled... not that it's made their lives any easier in recent months!

2) Vulture wasn't in a trance. He was just in a state of shock after absorbing artificial life-force. As you saw, after he adjusted, it made him even more merciless and inhuman!

3) We hope you enjoyed Doc Ock's major role in "Web of Death," because you won't be seeing him any more after that!

Dear Spider's Web,

I think your recent storyline involving the Spider-Clone and Spidey's emotional conflict have been great. I have read all the stories intently, but I feel as though I've missed something. Back in AMAZING #151, Spidey disposed of the clone at some incinerating plant, right? How did he survive? I'm unclear on this. Please let me know if I've missed something in the back issues!

Keep up the great work. I really feel you've made Spidey the most human hero around, with his recent feelings of anger and rage. I'm sure Spidey will be back to his old moral values before too long, though. The emotional depth you've given the clone has been very engrossing also, by the way!

Eugene Giunta
2815 Liberty Street
Easton, PA 18042

As you've seen by now, Eugene, it was the Jackal who rescued the Spider-Man clone from the smokesack. His reasons for doing so are still a mystery... but not for long!

Dear Spider's Web,

I just read AMAZING #396 and all I can say is, well, "Amazing!!" The artwork by Mark Bagley and Larry Mahlstedt was superb. I think it was the best Daredevil has looked in a long time. And I love the way J.M.'s psychological stories work with Mark's artwork. This is important now that Spidey is apparently going off the deep end.

I think this story was a good one for both Spidey and DD. They are quite similar in their recent situations, and my hat is off to J.M. DeMatteis for writing a superb story.

I also wanted to ask if we were going to see Judas Traveller again in the near future. I was very impressed with his debut, and he has potential to be a great Spider-Villain for the future.

Well, I wish you continued success! Spidey is still a strong character, and I think that after #400, he will be stronger than ever!

Lee Collins
301 Marshall Avenue
Abbeville, SC 29620

We think so, too, Lee! And we hope you're enjoying the current story-line featuring Judas Traveller. And on that note...

NEXT WEEK: What's going on here? Is Spider-Man really responsible for the death of millions? Can Spider-Man prevent this future from coming to pass? Can you stand the suspense? Mackie, Lyle, and DeLaRosa bring it all together in SPIDER-MAN #59, "Crossfire," part two!

IN TWO WEEKS: SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #225! At last! The awesome debut of the new Green Goblin! 48 action-packed pages under a 3-D live action Spider-Man holodisk cover! It's not to be missed!

NEXT ISSUE: "The Trial of Peter Parker," part two! While Ben Reilly faces a jury in Peter's stead, Spidey endures his own trial at Ravenscroft... with Carnage as the prosecutor! Talk about a kangaroo court! Be here in 30 for the wild proceedings!

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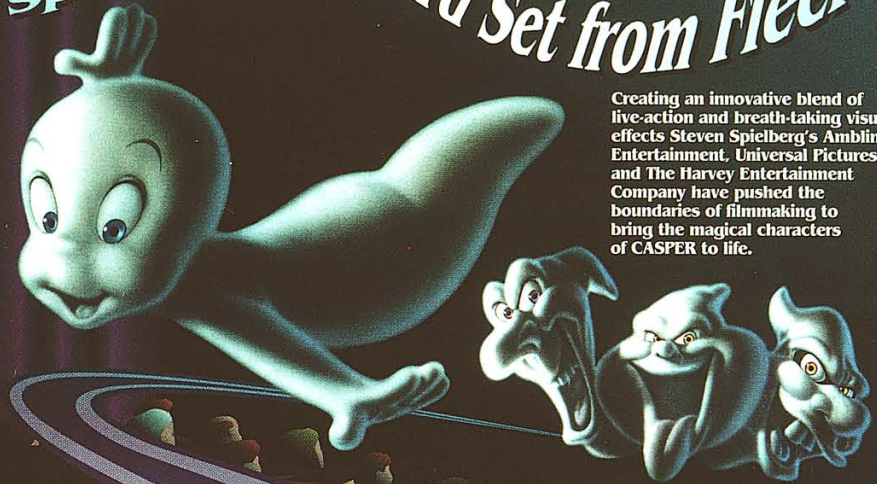
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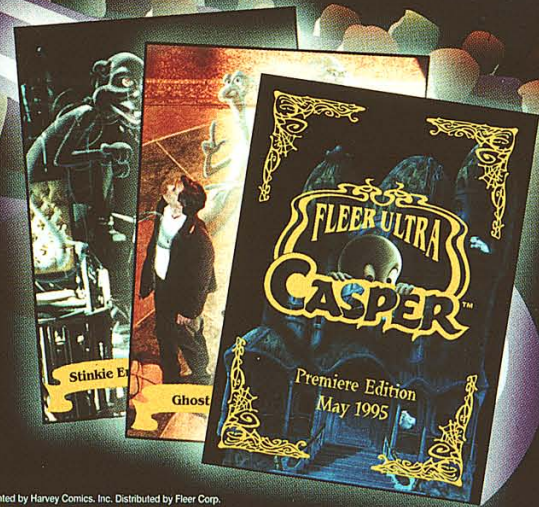
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